

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**RECORDER: Cheryl Holden**

**DATE: March 21, 2002**

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**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair; Jim Bellotti, CDE; George Chance, DSS; Arlene Downing, M.D., Cynthia Jaynes, Rick Ingraham, DDS, Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS.

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**Introductions & Announcements**

Dr. Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Jim Belotti, representing the California Department of Education on behalf of Delaine Eastin. Dr. Peterson also acknowledged Nina Lavine for her long time service to the ICC and for her recent Community Representative appointment and now an official member of the Family Support Services Committee (FSSC).

The Public Awareness Committee (PAC) hosted an Outreach and Orientation for parents attending the ICC for the first time. Dr. Peterson welcomed the parent visitors attending today.

Dr. Peterson commended all who contributed to the *California Early Start Annual Performance Report, July 1, 1999 – September 30, 2000*, which is developed jointly by DDS and the ICC. Rick Ingraham noted that the report was honored by the Sacramento Public Relations Association with a Gold CAPPIE Award for excellence in Public Relations.

Dr. Peterson reported that Governor Gray Davis has proclaimed the month of March 2002 as "Early Start Month." A copy of the Proclamation was included in the March ICC packet.

Mara McGrath announced the passing of Debbie Rowell. Ms. Rowell was an active member of the Family Resource Center Network. Her contributions will be greatly missed.

**Discussion on Child Care Issues**

George Chance, Co-Chair of the FSSC, proposed an open discussion regarding child care issues take place in the Committee of the Whole (COTW). FSSC will continue to take the lead in operationalizing the recommendations of the *Position Statement on Child Care*. Mr. Chance requested Kay Ryan facilitate a discussion to generate suggestions and recommendations to guide the FSSC in their charge.

Kay Ryan, Executive Director of Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDAPC) and Community Representative to the FSSC, discussed the establishment and representation of the CDAPC and it's original mission, "to ensure the quality of subsidized child care is equal to other types of care." Ms. Ryan presented information about the subsidized child care system provided through the California Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. She noted the Governor's Budget proposes the elimination of the CDPAC effective January 2003. This is the seventh time in the past thirty-five years that the proposed

APPROVED BY ICC 5/31/02

elimination of CDPAC has occurred. The decision will be made upon the signing of the Governor's Budget for fiscal year 2002-03 this summer.

Ms. Ryan led a discussion of strategies to ensure the child care needs of children with special needs are being met in California. Strategies generated included:

**1. Survey parent representatives of local child care planning councils.**

Ms. Ryan reported on the results a survey she conducted at the CDPAC meeting. Four questions were asked of 15 participants. Eleven responders noted that they have parent representatives on their local child care planning councils. Although this is seen as effective collaboration, it remains difficult for parents to participate on the councils due to a lack of appropriate child care. All participants would like advice and assistance on how to recruit and retain parent representatives.

The FRCN-CA is in the process of completing a survey of their members to determine if they are aware of their local child care resource and referral agencies and the extent of their participation on local child care planning councils. The FSSC Co-Chairs will report the results of the survey at the May COTW meeting.

**2. Consider how the ICC and the early intervention system could promote linkages between the child development community and the disability community.**

Kate Warren shared that the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council has released a report titled *Preventative Mental Health Services for Young Children in Alameda County*. Several findings in the report substantiate the need for more attention and resources to provide quality mental health services for children in child care. The Executive Summary from this report is attached. The entire report may be accessed from the Alameda Child Care Planning website.

<http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/childcare/reports.shtml>

Kate Warren also shared information regarding the activities of the School Readiness Working Group of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. The report discusses the need for children to have access to high quality and developmentally appropriate child care to help prepare them for school. The Executive Summary from the Final Report is attached. The entire report may be accessed from the California State Senate website.

<http://www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan/documents.htm>

Dr. Peter Michael Miller discussed the Joint Legislative Hearing of the Senate and Assembly held on March 11, 2002, regarding "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: the Science of Early Childhood Development". Important points from the Hearing included the concept that child care for infants and toddlers is early childhood education that integrates children's cognitive and emotional development, not just "babysitting." Legislators were also provided with information about school readiness that included not only a child's academic preparation, but social and emotional development, the ability to follow directions, sustain attention, and interact with adults and peers.

It was recommended that the recently published *Investments to Create Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs* Report prepared by the California Institute on Human Services, Sonoma State University, be mailed out

to ICC members prior to the May meeting. The report is attached and may also be accessed at [http://www.sonoma.edu/cihs/propten/investments\\_report\\_final.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/cihs/propten/investments_report_final.html)

It was recommended that *Findings and Recommendations of the Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Research Study* completed by the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention be mailed out to ICC members prior to the May meeting. The Executive Summary of the report is attached.

**3. Identify effective models to promote parent-professional collaboration.**

It was suggested the ICC could develop strategies to promote a statewide system to assist counties with strong parent participation on local child care planning councils in continuous improvement. Counties that currently do not have parent participation could be assisted in developing recruitment and outreach activities based on effective community models.

**4. Provide outreach and technical assistance about Early Start.**

Cynthia Jaynes, representative from the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP), described efforts encouraging alcohol and drug treatment providers to have licensed child care on site. Treatment providers typically provide "parent cooperative" type child care. ADP is currently making site visits to treatment providers in order to give technical assistance and information regarding referral for early intervention services and to family resource centers.

George Chance thanked all discussion participants for their feedback and diversity of opinion on important child care issues. The FSSC will continue the discussion.

**Foster Care Follow Up**

DDS staff are working with George Chance and DSS staff to review the *Recommendations on Early Start Collaboration with Foster Care* submitted by the ICC. The document will be reviewed to assist in determining appropriate revisions to the existing DDS/DSS Early Start Interagency Agreement as it relates to foster care.

**OSEP Visit**

It is anticipated that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project officer, Rhonda Ingle, will be attending the May ICC meeting. In order to provide Ms. Ingle with a comprehensive view of the ICC, it was suggested that she visit each committee for a brief overview of their mission, activities, and accomplishments. Ms. Ingle may also participate in a monitoring visit in one regional center catchment area.

**Early Start Family Satisfaction Survey**

In response to the OSEP review and the need for information about the Part C program, DDS contracted with Xenologix, Inc. to conduct a statewide family satisfaction survey. The survey seeks information about early intervention services provided, IFSP processes, and family perceptions about quality services and supports. Ken Freedlander, Chief, DDS Early Start Local Support Unit, is working with the contractor to finalize the report. It is anticipated that the report will be available for the OSEP visit in May 2002.

**Legislative Issues Discussion**

Dr. Peterson discussed the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) analysis and recommendations for legislative action on the State Budget proposed by Governor Davis for fiscal year 2002-03.

APPROVED BY ICC 5/31/02

Positive proposals include the augmentation of the regional center budget to provide for the increased service costs for young children with autism. Dr. Peterson indicated his concern regarding several proposals that would directly impact services and supports available for children and families. Reductions are proposed in educational services, social services, child care, mental health services, health services and Medi-Cal. The Governor's budget proposes the elimination of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program that provides preventative health services for children and youth of low-income families in California. The proposal to limit regional center services and require parental cost sharing may not offset the cost of implementing the proposal. Dr. Peterson recommended the ICC continue to provide information to elected representatives on the needs of children in our local communities and the importance of early intervention.

### **Future Agenda**

It was agreed that we would have a follow up presentation regarding recommendations on child care from the FSSC. It was also agreed that the COTW would discuss the *Findings and Recommendations of the Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Research Study*. The agenda will also include time for dialog with the OSEP project officer.

### **Agenda Review**

Committee chairs reviewed the March 21st agendas. Zelna Banks agreed to Chair the PAC meeting in the absence of the Co-Chairs. Linda Landry agreed to Chair the QAPPSC in the absence of the Chair. Each committee was requested to review a draft for the Early Start Annual Report describing the mission, activities, and accomplishments the committee during the reporting period.

### **Adjournment**

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.